

Filed for intro on 02/01/2001  
HOUSE BILL 525 By  
Chumney

SENATE BILL 1419  
By Person

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36 and Title 37, relative to proceedings regarding juveniles.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-102, is amended by deleting the word "and" at the end of subdivision (47); by deleting the period at the end of subdivision (48) and substituting instead a semi-colon and the word "and "; and by adding the following language as a new subdivision to be designated as follows:

(49) "Guardian ad litem" means a lawyer licensed to practice law in Tennessee, who is appointed by the court to serve as an advocate in a representative capacity in a legal proceeding or to perform any other role for which a law license is required by law. A nonlawyer may be appointed by the court as a lay guardian ad litem to perform fact finding and similar functions, including assisting litigants and acting in the best interest of a child who is the subject of the proceeding, and shall be a person who is qualified for such role by education, training or experience.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-4-132, is amended by adding the language ",as defined by section 36-1-102(49)," after the words guardian ad litem" and before the words " for any child" in subsection (a).

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-6-407, is amended by adding the language " as defined by section 36-1-102(49)," after the language "guardian ad litem," and before the words "if one" in subsection (a).

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-149, is amended by deleting the words "in this part" and substituting instead the words "in this chapter" in subsection (a), and by adding the language " as defined by section 36-1-102(49)," after the words "guardian ad litem" in subsection (a).

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-1-149, is further amended by adding the words "who is" after the words "special advocate" and before the words "trained in" and by adding the following language after the language "(CASA)" and before the words "to act" in subsection (b)(2):

or who is otherwise qualified by training, education or experience

SECTION 6. This act shall become effective on July 1, 2001, the public welfare requiring it.